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1897.

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THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.
Established A.D. 1841.

Hongkong, 23rd Oct., 1897.

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Correspondents must record their names and address
with communications addressed to the Editor, not
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Telephone No. 12.

London, 13th October.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, NOVEMBER 1st, 1897.

THE COURIER D'HAIPONG, writing on "Eng-
lish Manœuvres in China," advertises rather
a large and altogether unfounded claim in
regard to French rights in Southern China.

It says that, profiting by the preponderance
in the Far East secured for France by
Admiral Hamm's boldness at Bangkok, M. GERARD signed a convention with
China which commercially opened to France
Yunnan, Szechuen, and the rich country of
the "Four Valleys," entrusted to French
agents the post and telegraph service of
Southern Yunnan, particularly at Szechuen,
and authorised the establishment of a French
consular administration in the towns of
the Chinese provinces in question. "This
treaty," says our contemporary, "bound
China not to allow any other nation
to profit by the favours accorded to us."
Needless to say, no such clause
appears in the convention. It would be
in direct conflict with the most-favoured-nation
clause of the other treaties and would be
altogether indmissible. The nearest ap-
proach to such a provision as that described is
contained in the clause providing that for
the opening of Chinese mines French skilled
assistance may be applied to, but that is
merely permissive and does not bind China,
any more than a similar clause relating to
the construction of railways in a previous
treaty. The French paper, however, argues
from the facts premised that all other na-
tions but the French were to be rigorously
excluded, maintaining that the recent English
agreement referring to the Burma frontier,
etc., constitutes a grave wrong done to
France. It is much to be regretted that
French journalists should so assiduously
misrepresent matters and invent excuses for
stirring up bad blood when no real reason
for animosity exists.

A serious allegation regarding the admin-
istration of the police is made in Friday's
issue of the *China Mail*, namely, that the
Captain Superintendent living in his pos-
session conclusive evidence of the guilt of two
sergeant-introverters in the matter of re-
ceiving bribes, the men were made aware of
that fact, and it is stated that they wisely

entered their resignations. It would appear
from the paragraph that the sergeant-introverters
were accused, and that the master is at an
end so far as those particular men are concerned.
But it is alleged, the Captain Superintendent
had in his possession conclusive
evidence that they were guilty of a criminal
offence. It was clearly his duty to prosecute
them, and some explanation of why that
course was not adopted seems called for. The
course, it would appear, have not been bona
fides, but had been allowed to resign. If
this is so the inequality of justice with which
the members of the Force alleged to be im-
plicated in the gambling scandal have been
treated becomes still more glaring. In the
first place Inspector WIGGINS was pro-
secuted criminally and was sentenced to
a term of imprisonment. It was ex-
pected that the other men would have
a similar fair and open trial, and, if
found guilty, be punished in the same
degree, or, if found not guilty, be acquitted.
Instead of that they were dealt with depart-
mentally and several of them against whom
no charge of bribery could be proved were
dismissed with disgrace and loss of pension
for what was termed neglect of duty
in not reporting gambling houses of
the existence of which they were, so far
as appears to the contrary, unaware. And
now we are told that two men against whom
clear evidence of guilt exists have been
allowed to resign. The statement appears
in a paper which may as well be regarded
as the mouthpiece of Mr. MAY, but it is
scarcely credible that this particular state-
ment can have been made on that gen-
tlemen's authority. The important point,
however, is to know whether the statement
is true. If so a grave miscarriage of
justice has been perpetrated. If it be clearly
proved that any officer of the Police Force
has received bribes he ought to receive pun-
ishment adequate to his offence instead of
being allowed to escape by entering his re-
signation.

The Starbust Company announces a cheap
excursion to Macao on Sunday next.

The P. M. steamer *City of Peking* with mails,
&c., left Shanghai for this port on Friday,
at 5 p.m.

The M. M. steamer *Ernest Simons*, with the
outward French mail, left Singapore at 10 p.m.
on Saturday.

Two performances of "A Pair of Spectacles,"
by the Hongkong Amateur Dramatic Club
announced, the dates being Tuesday and Thursday,
6th and 8th November.

A football match was played on Saturday last
at the Happy Valley between St. Joseph's College
and the Independent Cricket and Football Club.
The latter won by two goals to one.

Two performances of "The Merchant of Venice,"
by the Hongkong Amateur Dramatic Club
announced, the dates being Tuesday and Thursday,
12th and 14th November.

A football match was played on Saturday last
at the Happy Valley between St. Joseph's College
and the Independent Cricket and Football Club.
The latter won by two goals to one.

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encouraged without allowing the full opportunity for the consideration of the question by those interested in the trials and trials of India. It is urged, further, that these meetings be continued, and that the measures which are being taken to meet these emergencies, which is happening Indian trials.

THE MILITARY MOVEMENTS IN THE LAGOS HINTERLAND.

London, 15th October.

The British forces sent to the Hinterland of Lagos have occupied the posts on the North-western Frontier. The French are apparently retiring to Boussoua.

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ADDITIONAL DOCTORS FOR INDIA.

London, 13th October.

Miss Marion Hunter, wife of Sir William Hunter, has been appointed a member of the Plague Commission which starts for India this week.

London, 14th October.

The Indian Office announces that it is not sending a Plague Commission to India, but only fourteen doctors, including Miss Marion Hunter.

London, 15th October.

Two trained nurses will accompany the doctors who are leaving for India on special plague duty.

THE PLAGUE IN INDIA.

Bombay, 13th October.

The total Plague deaths last week in the Bombay Presidency were 1,429, including 38 in Bombay, 143 in Poona, and 584 in the Sataras district.

Madras, 18th October.

Several days ago, in a case of plague at the Portuguese camp, Dr. Gifford performed an operation, assisted by Dr. G. G. Gifford. The doctor contracted the malady, and one man died. There have been no further cases of plague reported in Madras to-day from the segregation camp. Dr. Gifford is progressing favourably, and is out of danger, having had no fever for the past two days. The other scavenger who assisted him in the camp was discovered at Embore, and has been sent away; but there are no symptoms of plague on him.

THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER.

London, 15th October.

A British representative of all the Massungs has made a complete submission to General Blood, taking oath of adherence to the terms the General had imposed.

Bombay, 16th October.

A British, claiming to represent the whole of the Afridis and Orakalis, has arrived at Jamrud, and presented a letter purporting to contain proposals of submission. It is doubtful if the proposals can be admitted to date.

Bombay, 16th October.

General Blood's negotiations with the Salarzans continue. Villages open to attack in the valley desire to submit, but the inaccessible villages in the hills are obdurate.

SWIFTING REPORTS.

The British steamer *Titanic*, from Shanghai via Amoy 26th Oct., had gales variable breezes, fine and clear weather.

The British steamer *Modest*, from Yokohama via Amoy 24th Oct., had fine weather and N.E. wind and clear weather.

The British steamer *St. David*, from Manilla 28th Oct., had fine monsoon and fine weather from Luzon coast.

The British steamer *Woolwich*, from New-chwang 23rd Oct., at Clefou 23th, had light N. to N.E. winds, the weather and smooth seas.

The British steamer *Osman*, from Java 14th Oct. and fresh to light winds and generally fine weather. Cabots thence to port strong monsoon with variable winds, the weather and smooth seas.

The British steamer *Woolwich*, from Siam 26th Oct., had fine weather throughout. Passed a white-painted boat, 10 miles of Cape Ba-ke, could not see any name on it.

The German steamer *St. Pauli*, from Shanghai 28th Oct., had fine monsoon and fine weather from Luzon coast.

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The British steamer *Osman*, from Java 14th Oct. and fresh to light winds and generally fine weather. Cabots thence to port strong monsoon with variable winds, the weather and smooth seas.

The British steamer *Woolwich*, from Siam 26th Oct., had fine weather throughout. Passed a white-painted boat, 10 miles of Cape Ba-ke, could not see any name on it.

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